

# Committee on Government Reform

Tom Davis, Chairman



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

For Immediate Release  
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### ***“Project BioShield: Contracting for the Health and Security of the American Public”***

**What:** Government Reform Committee Oversight Hearing on the Federal government’s role in the development and procurement of “Project BioShield” to protect Americans from potential public health emergencies affecting national security.

**When:** Friday, April 4, 2003, 9:30 a.m.

**Where:** Room 2154 Rayburn House Office Building

#### **Background:**

The hearing will examine the Administration’s proposal, the “Project BioShield Act of 2003,” which is designed to protect Americans from the threat of a bioterrorist attack. The proposal would enable the Federal government to develop, procure, and make available countermeasures to biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological agents that could cause public health emergencies affecting national security.

While recent decades have yielded rapid progress in the treatment of many serious naturally occurring diseases, there has been little improvement in the medical treatments available for some types of terrorist attacks. Many countermeasures for potential agents of terrorism, including smallpox, anthrax, botulinum toxin, ebola and the plague, realistically have no market other than the government and thus have not generated significant manufacturer interest. However, should the United States be attacked with these deadly pathogens, the need for vaccines and antitoxins would be great and immediate. **The purpose of the “Project BioShield Act of 2003” would be to stimulate the development of modern and effective vaccines, drugs and devices to protect Americans against a national security threat involving biological, nuclear, radiological or chemical weapons.**

The “Project BioShield Act of 2003” was introduced in the Senate as S. 15 by Senator Judd Gregg (NH), and was reported by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions on March 19, 2003. A similar proposal has not been introduced in the House.

The legislation would authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Homeland Defense, respectively, to implement policies to insure the health and security of the American public.

**Panel One Witnesses:**

**Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, Director**, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services;

**The Honorable Dr. Mark McClellan**, Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services;

**The Honorable Michael Brown**, Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness & Response Department of Homeland Security; and

**The Honorable Dale Klein**, Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs, Department of Defense

**Panel Two Witnesses:**

**Frank Rapoport, Attorney at Law**, McKenna Long & Aldridge, on behalf of Aventis Pasteur;

**Dr. Una Ryan, President**, AVANT Immunotherapeutics, Inc. (Needham, Massachusetts);

**Dr. Katherine Bowdish**, President, Alexion Antibody Technologies (Cheshire, Connecticut);

**Dr. Michael Friedman**, Chief Medical Officer for Biomedical Preparedness, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America; and

**Dr. John Edwards**, Chief of Infectious Diseases, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center  
On behalf of the Infectious Diseases Society of America

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